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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *13 April 2009*.
2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.
3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-8 and 11-20* is/are pending in the application.
    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6)☒ Claim(s) *1-8 and 11-20* is/are rejected.
7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.
    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:
      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims:

Claims 1-8, 11-20 are pending in this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2.   Claims 1-8, 11-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Brown et al. (US 6,366,622 B1) in view of Fujioka (US 6,907,227 B2) and further in

view of Lee et al. (US 2002/0090968 A1).

Claim 1

Brown teaches a master communication device capable of simultaneously

communicating with slave communication devices within a first limited number

determined in advance ([Brown] Column 4 Lines 15-17 "A piconet starts with two

connected devices, such as a portable PC and cellular phone, and may grow to eight

connected devices"), comprising:

a communication judgment unit configured to judge whether or not one of said

slave communication devices which has issued a communication request is currently

connected ([Brown] Column 27 Lines 17-18, "Connection State Machine (CSM)" and

Column 28 Lines 1-5, "The INQUIRY substate is initiated in state 1302. If there is a hit,

or a timeout, the status table is updated in state 1304 and the previous connection or

standby state is entered in state 1306"); and

a communication connection unit configured to connect said slave

communication device judged not to be connected by said communication judgment unit

([Brown] Column 27 Lines 17-18, "Connection State Machine (CSM)" and Column 27

Lines 41-47 "The PAGE SCAN substate is initiated in state 1266 by the device which

then becomes the master. If there is a hit from a slave, the slave response substate

1268 is entered. If there is no hit, the standby or connection state 1264 is reentered.

Once in state 1268, if the slave responds before a timeout period, then the connected

state 1270 is entered").

Brown does not specifically disclose a connected number judgment unit

configured to judge whether or not the number of said slave communication devices

connected currently reaches a second limited number; a release selection unit

configured to select at least one of said slave communication devices to be released,

when determined to have reached said second limited number; and a communication

release unit configured to release the selected slave communication device.

Fujioka teaches that "Slave terminals and a master terminal are wirelessly

connected according to the Bluetooth protocol. When a number of the slave terminals

exceeds a predetermined number of the slave terminals for the wireless connection, the

wireless connections are controlled by a predetermined set of rules. Active slave

terminals are switched into inactive slave terminals according to the predetermined

rules" [abstract] in order "to efficiently use the resources in the system" [abstract] .

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of

invention to create the invention of Brown to include "When a number of the slave

terminals exceeds a predetermined number of the slave terminals for the wireless

connection, the wireless connections are controlled by a predetermined set of rules.

Active slave terminals are switched into inactive slave terminals according to the

predetermined rules" as taught by Fujioka in order "to efficiently use the resources in the

system" [abstract].

The modified Brown does not specifically disclose wherein the second limited

number is less than said first limited number.

Lee teaches in paragraph [0054] "The memory 32 stores priorities of the slave

devices that are currently linked to the Piconet. Further, the memory 32 stores a

maximum number of slave devices of the high priority and medium priority, respectively

(hereinafter called `high priority maximum number` and `medium priority maximum

number`, respectively)" in order to "prevent an excessive number of slave devices from

having high and medium priorities in the Piconet" (Lee: Paragraph [0071]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to create the invention of the modified Brown to include "a maximum number

of slave devices of the high priority and medium priority" as taught by Lee in order to

"prevent an excessive number of slave devices from having high and medium priorities

in the Piconet" (Lee: Paragraph [0071]).

Claim 2

The modified Brown reference teaches the master communication device

according to claim 1, further comprising:

a waiting registration unit configured to register in an order said slave

communication device which issues said communication request, in the issued order,

when the number of currently connected slave communication devices is determined to

have reached said second limited number; and a communication connection unit

configured to select and connect at least one of said slave communication device in the

order registered in said waiting registration unit (see claim 1 rejection and [Fujioka]

Column 16 Lines 45-53 "In particular, in the step S10, one of the inactive slave

terminals is selected based upon an order in which the slave terminals are placed in the

active state. In other words, the master terminal 1 stores in the memory unit 80 the

order in which the slave terminals are placed in the inactive state. For example, the

slave terminals 9 through 11 are pit into the inactive state in the first-in-first-out (FIFO)

order of the slave terminals 9, 11, and 10 as indicated in the memory unit 80").

Claim 3

The modified Brown reference teaches the master communication device

according to claim 1, wherein said release selection unit selects by priority said slave

communication device which has performed the earliest communication among said

slave communication devices connected currently (see claim 1 rejection and [Fujioka]

Column 16 Lines 45-53 "In particular, in the step S10, one of the inactive slave

terminals is selected based upon an order in which the slave terminals are placed in the

active state. In other words, the master terminal 1 stores in the memory unit 80 the

order in which the slave terminals are placed in the inactive state. For example, the

slave terminals 9 through 11 are pit into the inactive state in the first-in-first-out (FIFO)

order of the slave terminals 9, 11, and 10 as indicated in the memory unit 80").

Claim 4

The modified Brown reference teaches the master communication device

according to claim 1, wherein said release selection unit selects by priority the slave

communication device which has been connected for the longest time among said slave

communication devices connected currently (see claim 1 rejection and [Fujioka] Column

16 Lines 45-53 "In particular, in the step S10, one of the inactive slave terminals is

selected based upon an order in which the slave terminals are placed in the active

state. In other words, the master terminal 1 stores in the memory unit 80 the order in

which the slave terminals are placed in the inactive state. For example, the slave

terminals 9 through 11 are pit into the inactive state in the first-in-first-out (FIFO) order

of the slave terminals 9, 11, and 10 as indicated in the memory unit 80").

Claim 5

The modified Brown reference teaches the master communication device

according to claim 1, further comprising a connection release unit configured to release

connection for said slave communication device, when the connected slave communication device has not performed data transferring during not less than a prescribed period ([Brown] Column 28 Lines 8-12, "FIG. 29E illustrates the active sequence. The CSM 1244 begins in the standby or connection state 1308. If there are periodic transactions with remote units in state 1310, then the connection state 1312 is entered. If not, the standby or connection state 1308 is reentered").

Claim 6

The modified Brown reference teaches the master communication device according to claim 1, wherein release of connection for said slave communication device is performed by setting said slave communication device to be in an electric power saving mode ([Brown] Column 27 Lines 17-18, "Connection State Machine (CSM)" and Column 28 Lines 28-33, "First, the master establishes a beacon channel in state 1328 by placing the slave in Park Mode via a message communicating the beacon channel parameters and the salve's assignment. In step 1330 the slave goes into low power Parked State and times the interval to the next beacon").

Claim 7

The modified Brown reference teaches the master communication device according to claim 6, wherein communication for said slave communication device is performed according to a specification of Bluetooth;

said master communication device is a master equipment;

said slave communication device is a slave equipment; and

said electric power saving mode is a park mode.

([Brown] Column 28 Lines 16-28, "Referring to FIGS. 29A through 29H, there are

flow diagrams illustrating the operation of the connection state machine (CSM) 1244"

and "These states and substates are defined in the Bluetooth specification, version 0.7"

and Column 28 Lines 28-33, "First, the master establishes a beacon channel in state

1328 by placing the slave in Park Mode via a message communicating the beacon

channel parameters and the salve's assignment. In step 1330 the slave goes into low

power Parked State and times the interval to the next beacon").

Claim 8

The modified Brown reference teaches the master communication device

according to claim 1, wherein communication for slave communication device is

performed according to a specification of Bluetooth. ([Brown] Column 28 Lines 16-28,

"Referring to FIGS. 29A through 29H, there are flow diagrams illustrating the operation

of the connection state machine (CSM) 1244" and "These states and substates are

defined in the Bluetooth specification, version 0.7").

Claim 11

Brown teaches a communication control apparatus which controls a slave

communication device connected to a master communication device capable of

simultaneously communicating with said slave communication device within a first

limited number determined in advance, comprising:

a connection report receiving unit configured to receive a connection report from

said slave communication device newly connected to said master communication

device; a connection information registration unit configured to register information

relating to said slave communication device currently connected to said master

communication device ([Brown] Column 27 Lines 17-18, "Connection State Machine

(CSM)" and Column 28 Lines 1-5, "The INQUIRY substate is initiated in state 1302. If

there is a hit, or a timeout, the status table is updated in state 1304 and the previous

connection or standby state is entered in state 1306").

Brown does not specifically disclose a connected number judgment unit

configured to judge that the number of said slave communication devices connected to

said master communication device reaches a second limited number, based on

information registered in said connection information registration unit; a communication

device selection unit configured to select at least one of said slave communication

devices that connection for said master communication device is to be released, when

determined to have reached said second limited number; and a release instruction unit

configured to transmit a release instruction to said slave communication device selected

by said communication device selection unit.

Fujioka teaches that "Slave terminals and a master terminal are wirelessly

connected according to the Bluetooth protocol. When a number of the slave terminals

exceeds a predetermined number of the slave terminals for the wireless connection, the

wireless connections are controlled by a predetermined set of rules. Active slave terminals are switched into inactive slave terminals according to the predetermined rules" [abstract] in order "to efficiently use the resources in the system" [abstract] .

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to create the invention of Brown to include "When a number of the slave terminals exceeds a predetermined number of the slave terminals for the wireless connection, the wireless connections are controlled by a predetermined set of rules. Active slave terminals are switched into inactive slave terminals according to the predetermined rules" as taught by Fujioka in order "to efficiently use the resources in the system" [abstract].

The modified Brown does not specifically disclose wherein the second limited number is less than said first limited number.

Lee teaches in paragraph [0054] "The memory 32 stores priorities of the slave devices that are currently linked to the Piconet. Further, the memory 32 stores a maximum number of slave devices of the high priority and medium priority, respectively (hereinafter called `high priority maximum number` and `medium priority maximum number`, respectively)" in order to "prevent an excessive number of slave devices from having high and medium priorities in the Piconet" (Lee: Paragraph [0071]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to create the invention of the modified Brown to include "a maximum number of slave devices of the high priority and medium priority" as taught by Lee in order to

"prevent an excessive number of slave devices from having high and medium priorities

in the Piconet" (Lee: Paragraph [0071]).

Claim 12

The modified Brown reference teaches the slave communication device

according to claim 11, wherein communication between said master communication

device and said slave communication device is performed according to a specification

of Bluetooth; and a release of connection between said master communication device

and said slave communication device is performed to be set in a park mode ([Brown]

Column 28 Lines 16-28, "Referring to FIGS. 29A through 29H, there are flow diagrams

illustrating the operation of the connection state machine (CSM) 1244" and "These

states and substates are defined in the Bluetooth specification, version 0.7" and Column

28 Lines 28-33, "First, the master establishes a beacon channel in state 1328 by placing

the slave in Park Mode via a message communicating the beacon channel parameters

and the salve's assignment. In step 1330 the slave goes into low power Parked State

and times the interval to the next beacon").

Claim 13

Brown teaches a communication system, comprising:

at least one of slave communication devices; and

a master communication device configured to be able to communicate

simultaneously with said slave communication device within a first limited number

determined in advance, ([Brown] Column 4 Lines 15-17 "A piconet starts with two

connected devices, such as a portable PC and cellular phone, and may grow to eight

connected devices")

wherein said master communication device includes:

a communication judgment unit configured to judge whether or not one of said

slave communication devices which has issued a communication request is currently

connected([Brown] Column 27 Lines 17-18, "Connection State Machine (CSM)" and

Column 28 Lines 1-5, "The INQUIRY substate is initiated in state 1302. If there is a hit,

or a timeout, the status table is updated in state 1304 and the previous connection or

standby state is entered in state 1306");

a communication connection unit configured to connect said slave

communication device determined not to be connected by said communication

judgment unit ([Brown] Column 27 Lines 17-18, "Connection State Machine (CSM)" and

Column 27 Lines 41-47 "The PAGE SCAN substate is initiated in state 1266 by the

device which then becomes the master. If there is a hit from a slave, the slave response

substate 1268 is entered. If there is no hit, the standby or connection state 1264 is

reentered. Once in state 1268, if the slave responds before a timeout period, then the

connected state 1270 is entered").

Brown does not specifically disclose a connected number judgment unit

configured to judge whether or not the number of said slave communication devices

connected currently reaches a second limited number; a release selection unit

configured to select at least one of said slave communication devices to be released,

when determined to have reached said second limited number; and a communication

release unit configured to release the selected slave communication device.

Fujioka teaches that "Slave terminals and a master terminal are wirelessly

connected according to the Bluetooth protocol. When a number of the slave terminals

exceeds a predetermined number of the slave terminals for the wireless connection, the

wireless connections are controlled by a predetermined set of rules. Active slave

terminals are switched into inactive slave terminals according to the predetermined

rules" [abstract] in order "to efficiently use the resources in the system" [abstract] .

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of

invention to create the invention of Brown to include "When a number of the slave

terminals exceeds a predetermined number of the slave terminals for the wireless

connection, the wireless connections are controlled by a predetermined set of rules.

Active slave terminals are switched into inactive slave terminals according to the

predetermined rules" as taught by Fujioka in order "to efficiently use the resources in the

system" [abstract].

The modified Brown does not specifically disclose wherein the second limited

number is less than said first limited number.

Lee teaches in paragraph [0054] "The memory 32 stores priorities of the slave

devices that are currently linked to the Piconet. Further, the memory 32 stores a

maximum number of slave devices of the high priority and medium priority, respectively

(hereinafter called `high priority maximum number` and `medium priority maximum

number`, respectively)" in order to "prevent an excessive number of slave devices from

having high and medium priorities in the Piconet" (Lee: Paragraph [0071]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to create the invention of the modified Brown to include "a maximum number

of slave devices of the high priority and medium priority" as taught by Lee in order to

"prevent an excessive number of slave devices from having high and medium priorities

in the Piconet" (Lee: Paragraph [0071]).

Claim 14

The modified Brown reference teaches the communication system according to

claim 13, wherein said master communication device includes:

a waiting registration unit configured to register said slave communication device

which has issued said communication request, in the issued order, when the number of

currently connected slave communication devices is determined to have reached said

second limited number; and a communication connection unit configured to select and

connect at least one of said slave communication devices in the order registered to said

waiting registration unit. (see claim 13 rejection and [Fujioka] Column 16 Lines 45-53 "In

particular, in the step S10, one of the inactive slave terminals is selected based upon an

order in which the slave terminals are placed in the active state. In other words, the

master terminal 1 stores in the memory unit 80 the order in which the slave terminals

are placed in the inactive state. For example, the slave terminals 9 through 11 are pit

into the inactive state in the first-in-first-out (FIFO) order of the slave terminals 9, 11,

and 10 as indicated in the memory unit 80").

Claim 15

The modified Brown reference teaches the communication system according to

claim 13, wherein said slave communication device includes:

a master communication device connection judgment unit configured to judge

whether or not to be connected to said master communication device, when

communication request for said master communication device has been issued ([Brown]

Column 27 Lines 17-18, "Connection State Machine (CSM)" and Column 27 Lines 49-

55, "FIG. 29B illustrates the page sequence. The CSM 1244 begins in the standby or

connection state 1276 (for duration T.sub.page scan). The PAGE substate is initiated in

state 1278. If there is a hit, the master response substate 1280 is entered. If there is no

hit, the standby or connection state 1276 is reentered. Once in state 1280, if the master

responds before a timeout period, then the connected state 1282 is entered");

a release report signal supply unit configured to transmit a release report to said

communication control apparatus when connection for said master communication

device is released; and a connection release unit configured to release connection for

said master communication device when a release instruction for said master

communication device is received from said communication control apparatus, while

being connected to said master communication apparatus ([Brown] Column 27 Lines

17-18, "Connection State Machine (CSM)" and Column 28 Lines 28-31, "First, the

master establishes a beacon channel in state 1328 by placing the slave in Park Mode

via a message communicating the beacon channel parameters and the salve's

assignment" and Column 5 Lines 52-53, "Slave units can also demand to be put into

HOLD mode" where Hold and Park are both types of power saving modes and [Tanaka]

applicant admits in paragraph [0014] "In the Bluetooth, an effective method called as the

park mode is defined for temporary release"),

wherein said communication control apparatus includes:

a connection report receiving unit configured to receive a connection report from

said slave communication device newly connected to said master communication

device; a connection information registration unit configured to register information

relating to said slave communication devices currently connected to said master

communication device ([Brown] Column 27 Lines 17-18, "Connection State Machine

(CSM)" and Column 28 Lines 1-5, "The INQUIRY substate is initiated in state 1302. If

there is a hit, or a timeout, the status table is updated in state 1304 and the previous

connection or standby state is entered in state 1306");

a connected number judgment unit configured to judge whether or not the

number of said slave communication device reaches said second limited number, based

on the information registered to said connection information registration unit; a

communication device selection unit configured to select at least one of said slave

communication devices of which connection for said master communication device is to

be released, when determined to have reached said second limited number; and a

release instruction unit configured to transmit release instruction to said slave

communication device selected by said communication device selection unit (See claim

13 rejection).

Claim 16

The modified Brown reference teaches the slave communication device

according to claim 13, wherein communication between said master communication

device and said slave communication device is performed according to a specification

of Bluetooth; and a release of connection between said master communication device

and said slave communication device is performed by setting in a park mode ([Brown]

Column 28 Lines 16-28, "Referring to FIGS. 29A through 29H, there are flow diagrams

illustrating the operation of the connection state machine (CSM) 1244" and "These

states and substates are defined in the Bluetooth specification, version 0.7" and Column

28 Lines 28-33, "First, the master establishes a beacon channel in state 1328 by placing

the slave in Park Mode via a message communicating the beacon channel parameters

and the salve's assignment. In step 1330 the slave goes into low power Parked State

and times the interval to the next beacon").

Claim 17

Brown teaches a computer readable medium comprising a computer program

code for performing communication between at least one of slave communication

devices and a master communication device capable of simultaneously communicating

with said slave communication devices within a first limited number determined in

advance, the computer program code performing:

judging by said master communication device whether or not one of said slave

communication devices which has issued a communication request is connected

currently ([Brown] Column 27 Lines 17-18, "Connection State Machine (CSM)" and

Column 28 Lines 1-5, "The INQUIRY substate is initiated in state 1302. If there is a hit,

or a timeout, the status table is updated in state 1304 and the previous connection or

standby state is entered in state 1306");

connecting said slave communication devices judged that said slave

communication device is not connected currently, to said master communication device

([Brown] Column 27 Lines 17-18, "Connection State Machine (CSM)" and Column 27

Lines 41-47 "The PAGE SCAN substate is initiated in state 1266 by the device which

then becomes the master. If there is a hit from a slave, the slave response substate

1268 is entered. If there is no hit, the standby or connection state 1264 is reentered.

Once in state 1268, if the slave responds before a timeout period, then the connected

state 1270 is entered");

Brown does not specifically disclose judging by said master communication

device whether or not the number of said slave communication devices connected

currently reaches a second limited number; selecting by said master communication

device at least one of said slave communication devices to be released, when

determined to have reached said second limited number; and releasing the selected

slave communication device by said master communication device.

Fujioka teaches that "Slave terminals and a master terminal are wirelessly connected according to the Bluetooth protocol. When a number of the slave terminals exceeds a predetermined number of the slave terminals for the wireless connection, the wireless connections are controlled by a predetermined set of rules. Active slave terminals are switched into inactive slave terminals according to the predetermined rules" [abstract] in order "to efficiently use the resources in the system" [abstract] .

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to create the invention of Brown to include "When a number of the slave terminals exceeds a predetermined number of the slave terminals for the wireless connection, the wireless connections are controlled by a predetermined set of rules. Active slave terminals are switched into inactive slave terminals according to the predetermined rules" as taught by Fujioka in order "to efficiently use the resources in the system" [abstract].

The modified Brown does not specifically disclose wherein the second limited number is less than said first limited number.

Lee teaches in paragraph [0054] "The memory 32 stores priorities of the slave devices that are currently linked to the Piconet. Further, the memory 32 stores a maximum number of slave devices of the high priority and medium priority, respectively (hereinafter called `high priority maximum number` and `medium priority maximum number`, respectively)" in order to "prevent an excessive number of slave devices from having high and medium priorities in the Piconet" (Lee: Paragraph [0071]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to create the invention of the modified Brown to include "a maximum number

of slave devices of the high priority and medium priority" as taught by Lee in order to

"prevent an excessive number of slave devices from having high and medium priorities

in the Piconet" (Lee: Paragraph [0071]).

Claim 18

The modified Brown reference teaches the medium according to claim 17, the

computer program code further comprising:

judging by said master communication device whether or not one of said slave

communication devices which has issued communication request is connected currently

([Brown] Column 27 Lines 17-18, "Connection State Machine (CSM)" and Column 28

Lines 1-5, "The INQUIRY substate is initiated in state 1302. If there is a hit, or a timeout,

the status table is updated in state 1304 and the previous connection or standby state is

entered in state 1306");

judging by said master communication device whether or not the number of said

slave communication devices connected currently reaches said second limited number

(See claim 17 rejection);

registering said slave communication device which has issued the

communication request to a waiting registration unit of said master communication

device, in the issued order, when the number of currently connected slave

communication devices is determined to have reached said second limited number (See

claim 17 rejection and [Fujioka] Column 16 Lines 45-53 "In particular, in the step S10,

one of the inactive slave terminals is selected based upon an order in which the slave

terminals are placed in the active state. In other words, the master terminal 1 stores in

the memory unit 80 the order in which the slave terminals are placed in the inactive

state. For example, the slave terminals 9 through 11 are pit into the inactive state in the

first-in-first-out (FIFO) order of the slave terminals 9, 11, and 10 as indicated in the

memory unit 80");

selecting by said master communication device at least one of said slave

communication devices to be released, when determined to have reached said second

limited number (See claim 17 rejection);

 selecting at least one of said slave communication devices and connecting it to

said master communication device, in the order registered to said waiting registration

unit (See claim 17 rejection and [Fujioka] Column 16 Lines 45-53 "In particular, in the

step S10, one of the inactive slave terminals is selected based upon an order in which

the slave terminals are placed in the active state. In other words, the master terminal 1

stores in the memory unit 80 the order in which the slave terminals are placed in the

inactive state. For example, the slave terminals 9 through 11 are pit into the inactive

state in the first-in-first-out (FIFO) order of the slave terminals 9, 11, and 10 as indicated

in the memory unit 80").

Claim 19

The modified Brown reference teaches the medium according to claim 17, the computer program code further performing:

judging by said slave communication devices whether or not to be connected to said master communication device, when communication request for said master communication device is issued;

transmitting a release report from said slave communication device to said communication control apparatus when connection for said master communication device is released; releasing connection between said master communication device and said slave communication device when a release instruction for said master communication device is received from said communication control apparatus, during being connected to said master communication device;

receiving by said communication control apparatus a connection report from said slave communication devices newly connected to said master communication device; registering information relating to said slave communication devices currently connected to said master communication device, to said communication control apparatus;

judging by said communication control apparatus whether or not the number of said slave communication devices connected to said master communication device reaches said second limited number, based on the registered information;

selecting by said communication control apparatus at least one of said slave communication devices of which connection for master communication device is to be released, when determined to have reached said second limited number; and

transmitting a release instruction from said communication control apparatus to the

selected slave communication device (See claim 17 and 18 rejection).

Claim 20

The modified Brown reference teaches the medium according to claim 17,

wherein communication between said master communication device and said slave

communication device is performed according to a specification of Bluetooth; and a

release of connection between said master communication device and said slave

communication devices is performed by setting in a park mode ([Brown] Column 28

Lines 16-28, "Referring to FIGS. 29A through 29H, there are flow diagrams illustrating

the operation of the connection state machine (CSM) 1244" and "These states and

substates are defined in the Bluetooth specification, version 0.7" and Column 28 Lines

28-33, "First, the master establishes a beacon channel in state 1328 by placing the

slave in Park Mode via a message communicating the beacon channel parameters and

the salve's assignment. In step 1330 the slave goes into low power Parked State and

times the interval to the next beacon").

Response to Arguments

3.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-8, 11-20 have been considered

but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to FARHAD ALI whose telephone number is (571)270-1920. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday, 7:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey C. Pwu can be reached on (571) 272-6798. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/Farhad Ali/
Examiner, Art Unit 2446

/Jeffrey Pwu/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2446